WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bitumen roofing underlayment having at least one surface uniformly coated with a release coating consisting essentially of discrete droplets of an amorphous polymeric hydrocarbon wax containing 90-100% polypropylene wax and having a softening point of from about 75-170°F to provide the underlayment surface with a porous, breathable, flexible surface.

2. The underlayment of claim 1 wherein the polypropylene wax is modified with up to 10% of a secondary wax of polyethylene and/or bis-stearamide wax polymer.

3. The underlayment of claim 1 wherein said wax is 100% polypropylene.

4. The underlayment of one of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said wax has a softening point of between about 60° and about 100°F.

5. The composition comprising a tacky asphaltic sheet material of construction having at least one tacky surface coated with discrete droplets of an unmodified amorphous propylene wax polymer or the amorphous propylene wax polymer modified with up to 10% of a second wax of polyethylene and/or bis-stearamide polymer in a layer thickness of from a unimolecular layer up to a 3.5 mils wax polymer layer to provide a flexible, porous and releasable surface on said sheet.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein said droplets are composed of 100% polypropylene.

7. The composition of claim 5 wherein said sheet material is rolled and used in BUR roofing.

8. The composition of claim 5 wherein said sheet material is cut and used as roofing shingles.

9. The process of preparing the underlayment of claim 1 which comprises applying to a tacky surface of an asphaltic sheet, discrete microspheric droplets of an amorphous hydrocarbon wax polymer of propylene having a softening point below 170°F by spraying the wax at a controlled distance above said sheet such that the wax droplets retain their spherical shape and prevent their spreading into a continuous, gas impervious film.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein said amorphous hydrocarbon wax polymer of propylene is 100% polypropylene.

11. The process of claim 9 wherein said amorphous hydrocarbon wax polymer is a mixture of polypropylene up to 10% modified with a secondary wax polymer of polyethylene and/or bis-stearamide wax polymer.

12. The process of claim 9 wherein said amorphous hydrocarbon wax polymer of propylene has a softening point of between about 60° and about 100°F and wherein spraying is effected at a temperature at least 5° above the softening point of the wax.

13. The process of claim 9 wherein said wax is a solid and is premelted to a spraying condition before applying to said sheet.

14. The process of claim 9 wherein said wax is a solid and is predissolved in a sufficient amount of an organic solvent to provide a sprayable liquid solution before applying to said sheet.

15. The process of claim 9 wherein said wax is a liquid.